**Withdrawal of carbonated drinks from schools**

4081. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 511 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 2007 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has written to Health Ministers of all States to consider issuing instructions for withdrawing carbonated drinks from school and college canteens and to Chief Ministers of all States to consider issuing instructions to Vice Chancellors of all Universities for withdrawing carbonated drinks from canteens of educational institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has written to Health Ministers of all States and Union Territories to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and Carbonated Drinks from school and college canteens. Letters have also been written to Chief Ministers of all States and UTs to seriously consider issuing instructions to Vice Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and Agricultural Universities of their respective States for withdrawal of Junk Food and Carbonated Drinks from canteens of educational institutes.

As per information available, there are a few studies to indicate a positive correlation between consumption of such foods and obesity leading to diet related chronic non-communicable diseases.

**Smoking habit among the youth**

4082. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of youth affected by the habit of gutkha-pan masala in the various States of the country during the last two years;

(b) whether any study has been undertaken with regard to evaluate the ill-effects of this habit on the youth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the difference between the cost of implementation of health schemes and the income generated from gutkha and pan masala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) on tobacco prevalence, 2000-04,14.6% of students between 13-15 years of age are smokeless tobacco users.

As per Report on Tobacco Control in India, 2004, the consumption of smokeless tobacco products leads to morbidity and mortality through various diseases, *viz,* cancer, cardiovascular diseases, pulmonary tuberculosis etc.

There has been no specific health cost study to evaluate/suggest difference between the cost of implementation of health schemes and the income generated from smokeless tobacco products. However, health cost of three major tobacco related diseases was estimated to be Rs. 30,833 crore in 2002-03.

**NRHM in Himachal Pradesh**

4083. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any strategy for effective implementation of the National Rural Health Mission in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to empower local bodies for effective management of the health schemes; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has implemented NRHM throughout the country